



English Literature

Why study English Literature?

Through the study of literature, you will gain insight into the lives, experiences, hopes, dreams and passions of people from across the world and throughout history. You will gain insight into how writers have used words to record and express all of the experiences that make us human. You will develop the ability to investigate language in a thoughtful and precise way, using analytical skills to see how the crafting of language influences our perception of the world. You will learn how to fashion your own thoughts into interpretations that use evidence to advance compelling arguments.

What skills will I gain from studying English Literature?

English Literature students become logical readers of complex and sometimes challenging texts. You will gain the ability to balance differing interpretations of viewpoints about literary texts and become adept at the process of arriving at understanding through informed discussion. You will develop a depth and breadth of insight into history, culture and society and become familiar with important intellectual movements (such as feminism) that shape our world today. You will become skilled in effective academic writing and capable of independent research and original thought.

Having studied English Literature, what opportunities will be open to me?

Studying English Literature supports any application for higher education in the Arts and Humanities. It is also surprisingly useful for those wishing to take STEM subjects further; it provides a portfolio of communication skills that are advantageous for anyone seeking a career in a technical field. English Literature also prepares school-leavers for employment through its rigorous training in communication skills and the high levels of literacy it instils. The Russell Group has identified English Literature as one of the key enabling subjects students should consider at Sixth Form level.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Literature and grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language

Exam Board – AQA

Specification code/no: 7712

Topics covered in Year 12

Love Through the Ages; specifically covering Othello- analyse an extract then relate to the play as a whole; Compare two unseen poems, both written on the subject of love; Compare Rebecca to at least 2 poems from the Pre-1900 Poetry Anthology. Independent Comparative Study - coursework assignment comparing two prose texts, one of which must be written before 1900.

Topics covered in Year 13

Texts in shared contexts - WW1 and its aftermath, Scars Upon My Heart poetry anthology. You will also be taught how to respond to unseen texts about WW1 and compare how a theme is presented in A Long, Long Way and Journey's End.